

Sunday, December 7, Park Avenue Synagogue in New York was filled with 1,000 people who wanted to share the grief of his passing with his family who loved him so deeply that eight of his grandchildren, including an 11-year-old, wanted to share their innermost thoughts of affection and sadness with everyone gathered there.

Mike's life, his grit and determination, his business successes, and his devotion to family are the stuff of which books are often written. In every definition of the American Dream, Mike Steinberg would emerge as an ideal example. From the humblest beginnings, having to end his formal education at the age of 15, he went on, ultimately, to the role of a real estate magnate. He developed, owned, and managed properties from New York to Texas to California.

He was someone I was proud to know. He had a rare ability to attract admiration and respect from all who had contact with him and he will long be remembered as someone who proved that business success, devotion to family, pride in his heritage, and regard for others are still goals to be cherished in these days of disposable relationships.

We grieve his passing but we honor his being and I ask to have printed in the RECORD an item I placed in the New York Times on December 6 commemorating his extraordinary life.

The material follows.

[From the New York Times, Dec. 6, 2003]

STEINBERG, MEYER "MIKE".

Steinberg—Meyer "Mike". To our dearest husband and Dad from your five lucky girls. We are forever blessed with the love and life you showered upon us. There wasn't a time you weren't there are always knew we could count on you. Our hearts are broken and the void can never be filled. You will be cherished in our hearts forever and ever. We will always honor your memory and we will live our lives by the examples you set for us. You are our King of Hearts, our hero, we will love you forever. Jean, Susan, Bonnie, Carol, and Lois.

Steinberg—Meyer "Mike". Extraordinary beloved husband of Jean. Most cherished father of Susan Zises Green, Bonnie S. Englehardt, Carol S. and Michael Weisman, Lois Robbins Zaro and Andrew Zaro. Adoring and revered grandfather of Lynn Zises, Justin H. Green, Danielle and Lara Englehardt, Brett and Jad Weisman, Alex, Olivia, Stephen and Victoria Zaro. Great-grandfather of Isabelle Zises Krugman. Services Sunday, 1 pm, Park Avenue Synagogue, 87th and Madison Ave. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to honor his memory to the S.L.E. Foundation for Lupus Research, 149 Madison Ave., NY NY 10016. For further information call Plaza Community Jewish Chapel.

Steinberg—Meyer "Mike". An admired friend, extraordinary entrepreneur, beloved family leader, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. To know him as I did, father of my dearest Bonnie Englehardt, was a special privilege. His success in the business world was outstanding, but it never interfered with his role as the family patriarch. The risks that he took in his business life were always motivated by his desire to protect his family's security. His love of family extended as well to philanthropy. He supported Israel's survival and the fight to

cure Lupus disease, among many other programs to help the needy. He was a special human being, someone I cared deeply about, and his memory will be forever an inspiration to all who knew him. Frank R. Lautenberg United States Senator.

Steinberg—Meyer. The Officers, Trustees, Clergy and Members of Park Avenue Synagogue mourn the passing of a devoted congregant. We extend to his wife Jean, his daughters Susan, Bonnie, Carol and Lois and the entire family our heartfelt sympathy. David H. Lincoln Senior Rabbi Amy A.B. Bressman Chairman of the Board Menachem Z. Rosensaft President.

Steinberg—Meyer. The Directors and staff of the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation and the Lupus Research Institute mourn the loss of our dear friend Mike Steinberg, a devoted champion in the fight to conquer lupus. We extend our deepest sympathies to the Steinberg family, his devoted wife Jean and his beloved daughters Bonnie, Carol, Lois, and Susan. Richard K. DeScherer President, The S.L.E. Lupus Foundation.

Steinberg—Meyer. The Gural Family would like to extend its deepest sympathies to the family of Meyer Steinberg. We were proud to call Meyer our friend and partner. He was a true humanitarian, a charitable person in every sense of the word, and his presence will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to Jean, Susan, Bonnie, Carol, Lois and the entire Steinberg Family for their loss.

Steinberg—Meyer "Mike". The Board of Governors and the members of The Seawane Club record with sorrow the loss of our beloved member, Meyer "Mike" Steinberg. We extend heartfelt sympathy to his wife Jean and family. Ted Markson, President.

Steinberg—Meyer "Mike". We are heartbroken at the passing of our dear friend. Mike had great courage, accomplishment and was a generous philanthropist. Our condolences to his beloved wife Jean and family. He will be missed but not forgotten. Elma and Milton Gilbert.

Steinberg—Meyer. Newmark and Company Real Estate wishes to extend its condolences to the Steinberg Family, on the loss of their husband, father and grandfather Meyer Steinberg. He was both a friend and partner, and he will be greatly missed.

Steinberg—M. "Mike". It is with deepest regret that we mourn the loss of a wonderful, caring person who entered our lives years ago and was a model friend, husband, father and leader of people. Our heart goes out to Jean and her beautiful family. Barbara and Philip Altheim.

Steinberg—Meyer. Our deepest condolences to the Steinberg family on the loss of their beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Mike was a man of great fortitude and charity and he will be missed. The Zises family.

Steinberg—Meyer "Mike". To Jean and his beloved children and grandchildren, our sincerest condolences. We will sorely miss our dear friend, Love, Laura and Artie Ratner.

Steinberg—Meyer (Mike). My heartfelt sympathy to the Steinberg family on the their loss. Mike will be greatly missed by all his friend and associates. Norman F. Levy.●

PASSING OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN JOE SKEEN

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, with a heavy sense of sadness today, we mark the passing of former Congressman Joe Skeen from New Mexico.

On Sunday night, Joe Skeen lost his valiant battle with Parkinson's disease. Joe's passing is very hard for me

to accept even though he had been ill for so long. We have lost a great friend to New Mexico. Joe fit his district like a hand in a glove, and that fact will define his legacy as a public servant and a man of the people. My heart goes out to Mary and the Skeen family. In visiting with them, I know their sadness and sense of loss is severe.

I had the highest honor of serving the State of New Mexico with this amazing man for more than 20 years. Joe was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1980 as a write-in candidate. He is only the third man in the history of this country to achieve this feat.

As great an accomplishment as this was, history will show that it was among the least of his great achievements. As I am sure you can imagine, the litany of successes that Joe has had in his work for New Mexico is much too long to go into here today. Suffice it to say that New Mexico is infinitely better for having had Joe Skeen representing us in Congress; this country is better for having had Joe participate in making decisions that affect the entire Nation.

Joe was the first to tell you that he had not done it on his own, however. He had a partner in his great adventure who walked beside him every step of the way. Mary, his wife of 57 years, was a calming influence in the storm that is the life of a Congressman. She made it possible for Joe to continue to be a ranching Representative, running the family ranch while Joe served in Washington.

Since Joe Skeen retired from Congress in 2002, I have missed working with him on behalf of New Mexico. We were partners in so many projects for more than three decades. I am from our State's largest city, Albuquerque, and Joe was a rancher from one of the many rural parts of our State. Our different backgrounds did not prevent us from working together; rather, I would characterize them as allowing us to form an even better partnership on behalf of New Mexico.

We first got to know each other in 1960 when I was fresh out of law school and Joe was an up and coming member of our party. A decade later, in 1970, we teamed up together to run for Governor and Lieutenant Governor respectively. And, again in 1980, when Joe Skeen was first elected to Congress, we had the opportunity once again to work side-by-side. More than anything, Joe and I were able to use our respective positions on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to help New Mexico. He was always a good, solid and dependable man, and always a champion for his district. He certainly left huge shoes for those who follow him.

Today, my wife Nancy and I mourn. Joe is at rest, and our prayers are now with Mary, who has been such a force behind Joe and all his work.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wanted to amplify the remarks I made a few weeks ago when we approved a bill to create a museum of African American History as part of the Smithsonian Institution, on or near the National Mall.

As I said at the time, the passage of this measure is an enormous tribute to the work of Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Mr. LEWIS came to Congress as a representative from Atlanta in 1987. The next year he began his fight to create a museum that would tell the story of the African people in the United States of America.

It is a complex story, and a compelling one.

Of course there is the horror of slavery—one of the greatest stains on our Nation's soul. That story must be told—we cannot flinch from the truth, no matter how painful it might be.

But we must not allow it to blind us to the rest of the story . . . to the enormous contributions that people of African descent have made in the United States.

This very Capitol in which we now stand, a magnificent building that is a symbol of freedom around the world, was built with the labor of slaves.

African Americans fought to keep our Nation free . . . even when their own freedom was not fully realized.

And the ideas and talent of African Americans have enriched all of our lives.

From the Nobel laureate Toni Morrison to our great composer Duke Ellington, from the inventor and city planner Benjamin Banneker to the brilliant jurist Thurgood Marshall, from Jesse Owens to Jackie Robinson, our Nation has been inspired and enlightened by our African American citizens.

I regret that black people in this country have had to struggle so hard to win equality and be treated the same as everybody else. I wish that struggle had not been necessary.

Yet, that struggle has had an enormous impact on our Nation. The words and actions of men like Martin Luther King Jr. and JOHN LEWIS have uplifted us all.

Forty years ago, I lived in Washington and attended school here. I will never forget the great March on Washington of August 28, 1963.

Coming from Nevada, I was stunned by the sight of thousands of buses streaming into the city and the hundreds of thousands of people who marched peacefully for their cause. That event touched me in a profound way.

We all remember Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech from that day. It is rightly regarded as one of the greatest speeches of the 20th Century.

But JOHN LEWIS also spoke at the March on Washington—the only speaker from that great event who is still alive today.

And I will never forget what he said—that African Americans must free

themselves not only from political slavery, but also from economic slavery.

In the years since then, we have made tremendous progress. The legal rights of African Americans have been secured. But until economic equality and justice are achieved, the fight will not be won.

JOHN LEWIS has never stopped fighting for freedom and justice. That's why he recognizes the importance of a museum that will tell the story of the African American experience.

This museum was first proposed in 1915 by African Americans who had fought in the Civil War.

When Mr. LEWIS arrived in Congress, he adopted the cause as his own.

Each year since 1988, he has fought to create this museum. This year is the first time his bill has passed both the House and the Senate.

The bill has now gone to President Bush, and I hope he will sign it as soon as possible so we can begin the next phase of the journey—raising private contributions to match the Federal funds for the Museum of African American History.

I salute JOHN LEWIS for his good work. Not just the creation of this important museum, but the work of his entire life—the struggle for freedom, equality and justice.●

RECOGNIZING THE BRIDGEWATER JUNIOR LEAGUE ALL-STARS

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am very pleased today to recognize the Bridgewater Junior League All-Stars for their third place finish in the Junior League World Series this summer.

Throughout their incredible run, the Bridgewater Junior Leaguers were a source of great pride for their local community. The team of talented 13- and 14-year-olds cruised through the early rounds of the tournament, eventually making it all the way to the finals of the Junior League World Series. This team of winners should be applauded for their exciting play throughout the tournament. The 12 outstanding players on this young team have truly promising futures in front of them.

Congratulations to the Bridgewater All-Stars: Alex Arey, Andrew Armstrong, Daniel Bowman, Alex Crank, Brandon Craun, Kyle Craun, Sam Groseclose, Luke Long, Carl McIntyre, Tyler Milstead, Joshua Tutwiler and Josh Wright, their manager, Don Tutwiler, and coaches Sherrill Wright and Bill Groseclose. They have made Bridgewater and the Commonwealth of Virginia proud of their accomplishments.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO SGM PHILIP R. ALBERT

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to SGM Philip R.

Albert, U.S. Army, of Plymouth, CT. A 23-year Army veteran, he had served in Operation Desert Storm and already had a tour in Afghanistan. Sergeant Major Albert was considered an adventurer with a good sense of humor, dedicated to the Army, and devoted to his friends and family.

Joining the Army as a teenager, Sergeant Major Albert was an example of the powerful American spirit which permeates this Nation's history. A member of the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Sergeant Major Albert was killed in a helicopter crash during a combat operation on November 23 in Afghanistan. Five others died with him and eight others were injured.

Sergeant Major Albert who loved the military, served as a messenger of high justice and idealism in the best tradition of American principles and patriotism. I am both proud and grateful that we have the kind of fighting force exemplified by Sergeant Major Albert serving in the Persian Gulf.

Our Nation extends its heartfelt condolences to his mother, brothers, and sisters. We extend our appreciation for sharing this outstanding soldier with us, and we offer our prayers and support. You may be justifiably proud of his contributions which extend above and beyond the normal call of duty.●

OREGON VETERAN HERO

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I rise to honor an Oregon veteran who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to her country and to her State. Blanche Osborn Bross was born on July 21, 1916, and has lived in Oregon since the age of 8.

In 1943, Blanche heeded the call to duty by joining the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, WASP, an experimental program developed to compensate for the lack of men available for pilot training; when American men were critically needed for combat duty during World War II, important piloting jobs across the country were left vacant. WASPs like Blanche spent countless hours training to assume piloting jobs, deliver planes from factories to their domestic bases, tow targets for gunnery practice, and train cadet pilots.

More than 25,000 women applied for the prestigious WASP program, and while 1,830 were chosen for training, a select 1,074 women graduated from the rigorous program. After graduating, Blanche became one of 17 women sent to Columbus, OH, to learn to fly four-engine aircraft. In Ohio, Blanche became a pilot of the legendary B-17 "Flying Fortress," ferrying the enormous aircraft between bases. Fortunately, at 5 feet, 8 inches tall, Blanche was just tall enough to reach the rudder pedals.

After her first assignment in Ohio, Blanche was sent to Fort Myers, FL, to assist in gunnery training. As a pilot, she took gunners up in the air where